

FWB  
BX  
6364.2  
.N8  
D8  
P43  
W4  
1961

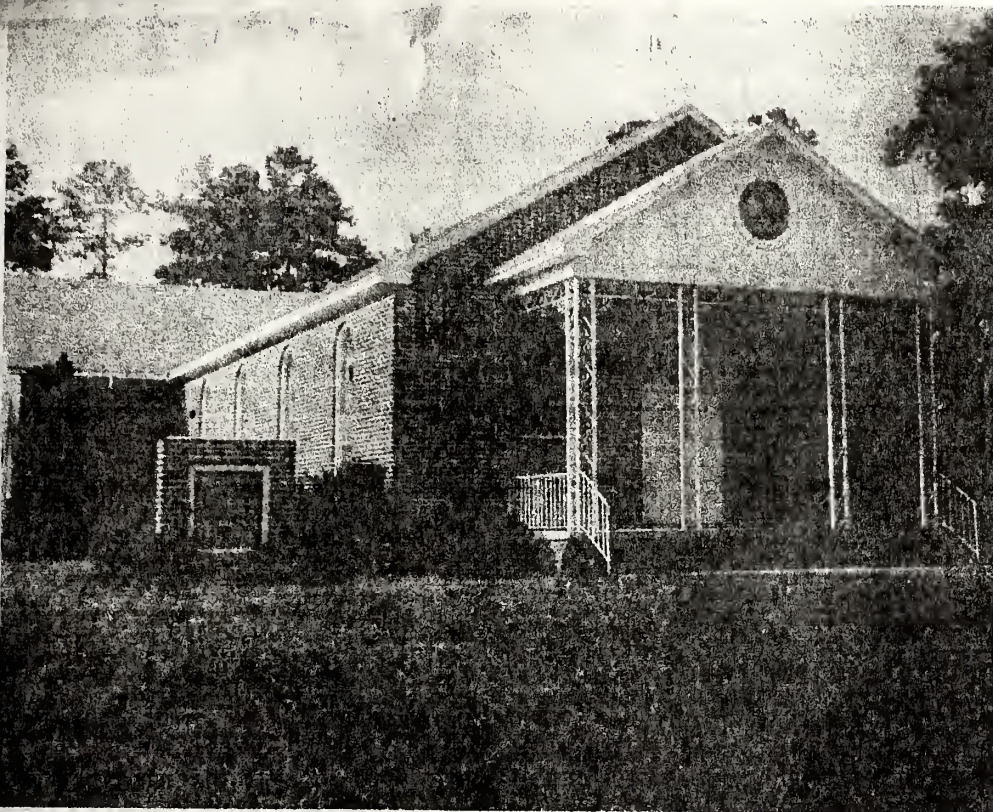
HISTORY OF PEARSALL CHAPEL  
FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
RUTH B. WELLS

FWB  
BX  
6364.2  
.N8  
D8  
D12

2699

Wells, Ruth B.  
History of Pearsall Chapel Church

# Duplin County Churches



## Pearsall Chapel F.W.B

By: Ruth B. Wells

The church at Pearsall Chapel was organized prior to 1897 at Wesley Church, which at that time was a community church with all denominations of the area holding services there. The ten charter members later met in a school and other places until 1897 when Mr. Joseph Pearsall donated the present site and most of the money to erect a church. This was a frame structure and was used until 1959.

During the early days of the church there was no regular pastor but Rev. A. E. Rouse preached part time. The first regular pastor was Rev. Tommy Wallace who served without pay. Later Rev. A. E. Rouse came back as the regular pastor and served about fifteen years, ending his ministry in September 1922. Since that time the church has been pastored by Rev. Robert Kennedy, Rev. George Kennedy, Rev. R. B. Spencer, Rev. L. B. Manning, Rev. Sam Kennedy, Rev. W. A. Ansley, Rev. L. L. Parker, Rev. Gene Outland and the present pastor is Rev. S. A. Smith who has served a total of fifteen years at three different times. His present term began in 1959. About twenty different evangelists have conducted revivals at the church, some of them coming back for as many as six or seven years.

D. F. Chambers, Johnnie

Benson, Willie Barnette, Earl Heath and Carl W. Powell serve on the Board of Deacons.

The present building was begun in 1957 and the first service was held in March 1959.

This building was constructed on a cash basis. Approximately \$22,000.00 was contributed, together with many dollars worth of materials and labor. The building committee estimates that the labor, materials and

money contributed would total about \$40,000.00.

Miss Daisy Wells was a charter member and has been active in all phases of the church work since the church was organized.

Eight different people have served the church as clerk. The present membership is 125.

(We appreciate the efforts of a committee who were especially appointed to prepare this information).

K2K4 2699 2111



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2014

<https://archive.org/details/historyofpearsal00well>

incoming 1/16/1

FWB  
BX  
6364.2  
N8  
D8  
P43  
W4  
1961

## History of Pearsall Chapel Church

The Church at Pearsall Chapel was organized about 1898 or 1899 with about ten Charter Members. Miss Daisy Wells was one of the Charter Members and is still very active in the Church, teaching a Sunday School class each Sunday.

Mr. Joseph Pearsall donated the land and most of the money for the first building which was used until 1959, when this building was first occupied. Mr. Stephen W. Wells and Mr. Dock Dunn built the first building.

The present building was begun in September 1957 and the first service was held in March 1959. The Lord has really blessed in this project. The building is debt free and is almost completed.

When the Church was first organized there was no regular pastor. Later Rev. Tom Wallace served as pastor without pay. Rev. A. E. Rouse was another early pastor.

Since the church was organized 11 different ministers have served. Our present pastor has served a total of 4 years at 3 different times.

Eleven Deacons have also served the Church with five deacons now serving.

About 13 Evangelists have conducted meetings through the years, most of them having conducted more than one meeting and some as many as six.

Eight different people have served the church as Clerk.

The present membership of the Church is 109.





## HOMEcoming

### OCTOBER 11, 1998

Pearsall Chapel Original Free Will Baptist Church was organized around Jan. 1, 1898, with about 10 charter members including Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pearsall, Miss Daisy J. Wells, Mrs. Cora Pearsall Wells and Mr. S.W. Wells.

Records from the early days of the church are scarce. We do have evidence that Miss Cora Wells and Miss Annie Wells united with the church by baptism in Sept. 1901. A lot of older members remember what a great impact the Wells ladies had on the church and our own personal lives.

Mr. Joseph Pearsall, in a deed dated March 27, 1900, recorded in book 67, page 254 of the Duplin County Registry, "to the Trustees in office and their successors of the Free Will Baptist at Pearsall Post Office," donated the land where this church is now located. Mr. Pearsall also contributed most of the money for the first building which was used until 1959. Mr. Stephen Wells and Mr. Dock Dunn built the first building.

On April 23, 1949 a fund was begun by Mr. J. K. Bryan, who was Sunday School Superintendent at that time, for the purpose of adding Sunday School rooms to the church. The Sunday School rooms were added around 1950.

In 1957 the congregation decided we needed a larger sanctuary. During the summer of that year Miss Cora Wells asked the congregation to fast and pray one day with her that the church would be started in September. On September 30, 1957 construction was begun on this building. The first service was held in March 1959. The pews and the windows were provided by memorial and honorarium gifts.

In 1976 the Fellowship Hall was started. Timber was donated by several church members to provide lumber to construct the building. Most of the labor to construct the Fellowship Hall was done





by church members. The Fellowship Hall was completed in 1977.

In 1983 plans were made to place a steeple on the church. Members and friends raised enough money in memorial gifts to pay for the steeple. It was erected in 1984.

We have no record that any money was ever borrowed to construct any of the buildings. God has blessed us in our efforts.

When the church was first organized there was no regular pastor. One of the earliest pastors was Rev. Tommy Wallace who served without pay. Later Rev. A. E. Rouse served for about 15 years, until September 1922. Other pastors who have served are: Rev. Robert Kennedy, Rev. George Kennedy, Rev. R. B. Spencer, Rev. L. B. Manning, Rev. S. A. Smith served a total of 20 years on 3 different occasions, Rev. Sam Kennedy, Rev. L. L. Parker, Rev. Gene Outland, Rev. Sheldon Howard, Rev. Frank Grubbs, Rev. Bobby Harrell, Rev. David Thick, Rev. Keith Davis, Rev. Andrew Hill is currently serving.

Approximately 40 evangelists have conducted revivals through the years, most of them having conducted more than one series of services and some as many as six.

Approximately ten persons have served as trustees. The first trustees were Mr. S. W. Wells and Mr. D. B. Dunn, others are Mr. B. F. Chambers, Mr. Ashley Houston, Mr. D. F. Chambers, Mr. Robert Houston, Mr. Kirby Quinn, Mr. Johnny Benson, Mr. Carl Powell and Mrs. Shirley Benson. Mr. Johnny Benson and Mrs. Shirley Benson and currently serving as trustees.

The following persons have served as clerk and/or treasurer: Mr. D. B. Dunn was the first clerk serving from 1898 to 1925, others are Mr. J.J. Wells, Miss Daisy J. Wells, Mrs. D.F. Chambers Mrs. O.R. Blizzard, Mrs. Herman Benson, Mrs. C.B. Jernigan, Mrs. Carl W. Powell, Mrs. Claro Stroud, Mrs. Willard Brown, Mr. Keith Kennedy, Mrs. Gene Brown, Mrs. Tommy Benson, Mrs. Cynthia Potter



currently serving as clerk and Mrs. Gene Brown as treasurer.

The following persons have served the church as deacons: Mr. S.W. Wells, Mr. D.B. Dunn, Mr. B.F. Chambers, Mr. Ashley Houston, Mr. D.F. Chambers, Mr. Johnny Benson, Mr. J.K. Bryan, Jr., Mr. Willie Barnette, Mr. O.R. Blizzard, Mr. Herman Quinn, Mr. Earl Heath, Mr. Carl W. Powell, Mr. Maynard Quinn, Mr. Bobby Benson, Mr. Gene Brown, Mr. Mercer Williams, Mr. Jim Hunter, Mr. Chris Whitman. Those currently serving are Mr. Johnny Benson, Mr. Bobby Benson, Mr. Gene Brown and Mr. Tommy Benson.

There have been numerous members who have made outstanding contributions to the church both spiritually and financially. Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Chambers were two who were faithful even unto death. They both served in various capacities for many years. He served as a deacon and held many other offices. She played the piano and organ and prepared communion among other things. In order to maintain the church in perpetuity, at their death they left an endowment to insure this.

As was stated early our records are incomplete, if there are errors in this article or if names have been omitted it is not intentional. Please call to our attention any errors that have been made.

Pearsall Chapel Church has supported the denominational enterprises through the years. Sunday School and Bible School have been important ministries in the church.

As we begin our second century, we realize we have made mistakes along the way. In times of adversity we have tried to grow in order to overcome and improve. As Paul wrote to the Phillipians in Phillipians 2:16 "Holding forth the word of life; that (I) we may rejoice in the day of Christ, that (I) we have not run in vain, neither labored in vain."

"Rejoice in the Lord alway; and again I say rejoice." Phil. 4:4.





**ACCO USA**

LINCOLNSHIRE, ILLINOIS 60069

**#25971**



0 50505 25971 7

**BLACK/NOIR/NEGRO**

MADE IN USA

